

XMAS. Handkerchiefs etc. at J. E. Bell's

Saints and Sinners.

The sinners, who attend upon the ministrations of brother J. L. Brown, leader of the colored Methodist flock here, having boasted, much to the discomfort of the saints of the same flock, that they (the sinners) were more liberal than the saints in their contributions for the support of the Church, brother Brown determined to test the matter, seeing in it, doubtless, a good chance to gather in a few shekels. He hit upon a plan unique and novel and admirably calculated to test the liberality and fire the zeal of the contending parties. Accordingly he organized the saints into a band which he designated as the "Host of Joshua," placing them under command of Jim Callander and Tom James. The sinners he marshaled under the able leadership of Jim Early, Alfred Pryor and Will Lacy, and these were to be known as the "Host of Gideon." At the Church last Sunday morn-

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Tom James. The sinners he marshaled under the able leadership of Jim Early, Alfred Pryor and Will Lacy, and these were to be known as the "Host of Gideon." At the Church last Sunday morning brother Brown arranged a contest, which would put saint and sinner upon his metal, and, as he shrewdly surmised incidently replenish the coffers of the Church. On one side of the altar he placed a table, upon which the contributions of the "Host of Joshua" were to be placed and publicly counted; and on the other side a similar table for the offerings of the "Host of Gideon."— After a few preliminary remarks, in which the pastor urged the importance of liberal giying, and reminded saint and sinner of the love of the Lord for the cheerful giyer, the contest opened with lively interest, particularly noticeable among the saints. Purses were opened and examined with eager solicitude, pockets were explored to their very depths and soon the nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars, with here and

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poured upon the table of the saints with a boundless prodigality that made the good pastor's eye glisten and his countenance beam with infinite pride and satisfaction. The aim of the Joshuaites seemed to be to crush the pretensions of the Gideonites at the very outside of the contest, so they poured out their shekels with reckless liberality regardless of all consequences, hard times, the exhausted conditions of their larders or any such consideration. The Gideonites were dazed and retired in discomfiture, their table showing only one dollar, whilst the "Host of Joshua" had piled up before the astonished eyes of their beloved pastor the largesum of ten dollars.

But the contest was not to be so easily won by this bold dash of the saints.— At the night meeting the sinners rallied, gathered themselves together for another effort and soon had their table groaning under a burden of fifteen dollars, made up of all denominations of

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But the contest was not to be so easily won by this bold dash of the saints.— At the night meeting the sinners rallied, gathered themselves together for another effort and soon had their table groaning under a burden of fifteen dollars, made up of all denominations of Uncle Sam's coins. And now the saints, in turn, were discomforted, fairly paralyzed, indeed, by this splendid showing of the sinners, and their humiliation was well nigh complete when, with all their pleading and exhorting, they could raise only six dollars and 35 cents more. Fortunately for them the energies of the sinners were now expended and their pockets empty, so that this 35 cents was sufficient to give the Joshua-ites the victory, though by a very narrow margin. Result—\$32.35, a flush treasury and a smiling parson.